

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An audio player assembly comprising:
 - (a) an MP3 player; and
 - (b) an audio player unit comprising at least one speaker and optionally an FM receiver operatively coupled with the speaker, wherein said audio player unit is operatively connected with the MP3 player for receiving an audio signal produced by the MP3 player and for outputting said audio signal through the at least one speaker thereof.
2. The audio player assembly of claim 1, wherein said audio player unit comprises an modular docking unit having a main body portion with a docking cavity therein for docking said MP3 player.
3. The audio player assembly of claim 2, wherein said modular docking unit further comprises retention means for retaining the MP3 player in position in the docking cavity.
4. The audio player assembly of claim 2, wherein the modular docking unit comprises at least one indicator light indicative of the operational state of the unit.
5. The audio player assembly of claim 4, wherein the indicator light indicates the “ON” or “OFF” state of the unit.
6. The audio player assembly of claim 4, wherein the indicator light indicates the charging status of a battery in the MP3 player docked in the docking cavity of the modular docking unit.
7. The audio player assembly of claim 1, wherein the audio player unit comprises the FM receiver for receiving radio frequency signals.
8. The audio player assembly of claim 7, wherein the audio player unit further comprises an FM transmitter for transmitting the audio signal produced by the MP3 player to the FM receiver, which in turn transmits said audio signal to the speaker for outputting thereby.

9. The audio player assembly of claim 2, wherein said modular docking unit further comprises power/charging circuitry and coupling means in the docking cavity for connecting the MP3 player with power/charging circuitry.
10. The audio player assembly of claim 9, wherein the coupling means in the docking cavity comprises a fire-wire coupling.
11. The audio player assembly of claim 2, wherein said modular docking unit comprises an coupling means that connects with an audio out port of the MP3 player for receiving the audio signal produced thereby and transmitting the received audio signal to an amplifier in the audio player unit, wherein said amplifier is coupled with the speaker for outputting the amplified audio signal through said speaker.
12. The audio player assembly of claim 2, wherein the modular docking unit comprises a frequency indicator on the main body portion.
13. The audio player assembly of claim 2, wherein the modular docking unit comprises a frequency tuning control on the main body portion.
14. The audio player assembly of claim 2, wherein the main body portion of the modular docking unit has a generally rectangular shape.
15. The audio player assembly of claim 1, wherein said MP3 player comprises an iPOD™ MP3 player.
16. The audio player assembly of claim 1, wherein said audio player unit comprises a boom box unit having an FM receiver for receiving radio frequency signals.
17. An audio player adapted for use with an MP3 player, comprising:

- (a) an modular docking unit having a main body portion with a docking cavity therein for docking the MP3 player;
 - (b) means for receiving an audio signal produced by said MP3 player;
 - (c) at least one speaker for outputting the received audio signal; and
 - (d) optionally, an FM receiver operatively coupled with said at least one speaker.
18. The audio player of claim 17, wherein said modular docking unit further comprises retention means for retaining the MP3 player in position in the docking cavity.
19. The audio player of claim 17, wherein the modular docking unit comprises at least one indicator light indicative of the operational state of the unit.
20. The audio player of claim 19, wherein the indicator light indicates the “ON” or “OFF” state of the unit.
21. The audio player of claim 19, wherein the indicator light indicates the charging status of a battery in the MP3 player docked in the docking cavity of the modular docking unit.
22. The audio player of claim 17, wherein said modular docking unit further comprises power/charging circuitry and coupling means in the docking cavity for connecting the MP3 player with the power/charging circuitry.
23. The audio player of claim 22, wherein the coupling means in the docking cavity comprises a fire-wire coupling.
24. The audio player of claim 17, wherein said modular docking unit comprises an coupling means for connection with an audio out port of the MP3 player, for receiving the audio signal therefrom and transmitting the received audio signal to an amplifier in the audio

player unit, wherein the amplifier is operatively coupled with the speaker for outputting the amplified audio signals through said speaker.

25. The audio player of claim 17, wherein the modular docking unit comprises a frequency indicator on the main body portion.
26. The audio player of claim 17, wherein the modular docking unit comprises a frequency tuning control on the main body portion.
27. The audio player of claim 17, wherein the main body portion of the modular docking unit has a generally rectangular shape.
28. The audio player of claim 17, comprising the FM receiver for receiving radio frequency signals.
29. The audio player of claim 28, further comprising and an FM transmitter for transmitting audio signal produced by the MP3 player to the FM receiver, which in turn transmits the audio signal to the speaker for outputting thereby.
30. The audio player of claim 17, adapted for use with an iPOD™ MP3 player.
31. The audio player of claim 17, comprising a boom box unit comprising the FM receiver for receiving radio frequency signals.